



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## **Notification of Unavailable Measures**

February, 2015

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) number one priority is delivering high-quality health care and benefits to our Nation's Veterans, and VA remains committed to increasing transparency regarding the care Veterans receive. VA currently posts various patient quality, safety, and outcome measures on both its website and on the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Hospital Compare website. These measures allow patients to evaluate the quality of care they receive from VA and make informed health care decisions. These include:

- Additional measures of timely and effective health care
- Measures of readmissions, complications of death, including with respect to 30-day mortality rates and 30-day readmission rates, surgical complication measures, and health care related infection measures
- Expanded survey data of patient experiences, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems or any similar successor survey developed by the Department of Health and Human Services
- Any other measures required of or reported with respect to hospitals participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

Section 206 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 directs VA to notify the public regarding measures that are unavailable. While VA currently posts many critical measures, we are continually working to increase the number of health care applicable quality measures that are published on both the VA and HHS Hospital Compare websites. VA is addressing three challenges that impact the availability of certain measures: (1) data quality; (2) standard data collection processes; and (3) the appropriate provision of funds to support measurement and reporting. On an annual basis VA will make additional quality measures available on the Quality of Care website. VA is also collaborating with HHS to increase the number of measures reported on an annual basis. Every year VA will announce which new metrics will be submitted to the Hospital Compare website.